



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1903-01-28

Letter from W. B. Gilbert to John Muir, 1903 Jan 28.

W. B. Gilbert

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WESTERN OFFICE
927 MARKET STREET
SAN FRANCISCO

SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN

HOME OFFICE
170 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK CITY

COMPILING DEPARTMENT

San Francisco, Cal. Jan. 28th. '03.

Prof. John Muir,

Martinez, Cal.

Dear Sir:-

Your kind note of recent date is rec'd. and I have been endeavoring to go out and see you, but have been so very busy that it seems almost impossible to get away. I will, therefore, endeavor to make plain to you our desires in connection with the article "Glaciers", and trust you can decide the matter without my conferring with you personally.

Mr. Frederick Converse Beach, the Editor-in-Chief of the Scientific American is also Editor-in-Chief of the new American encyclopedia, which we are arranging to issue. The title of the book will be the "ENCYCLOPEDIA AMERICANA". It is to be to America what the Encyclopedia Britannica was to England. Each and every article is to be written from an American standpoint, and every subject of any especial importance is to be written by what we consider the greatest living specialist in America on that particular subject.

I have to-day arranged with Dr. David Starr Jordan for an article of 15,000 words on Ichthyology and will see Prof. Jacques Loeb of the University of California relative to an article on ~~the~~ "Invertebrate Embryology". Now Mr. Beach is very anxious to have you prepare the article on Glaciers, and request that it embrace from two thousand to three thousand words. He is also very anxious to receive your photograph and asks that I make inquiry from you where we can obtain a good biography of yourself.

In consideration of the preparation of the article on Glaciers I am authorized to offer you one complete set of the ENCYCLOPEDIA AMERICANA bound in Three Quarter Leather, the net price of which is \$96.00, and for which Mr. Gillis, State Librarian at Sacramento has just given an order agreeing to pay this amount; in fact, we have taken a number of orders from prominent people in this city and vicinity, although no volumes are yet issued. If you can see your way clear to accept this proposition, I trust you will sign and return to me one of the

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Mr. J. M.--2.

enclosed memoranda of agreement. The editors are very anxious to receive the article not later than the 1st. of April.

Kindly let me have your decision by return mail, and oblige.

Very truly,

W. B. Gilbert